

Cambridge Analytica: We designed Trump campaign strategy

March 20 2018, by Gregory Katz



Chief Executive of Cambridge Analytica (CA) Alexander Nix, leaves the offices in central London, Tuesday March 20, 2018. Cambridge Analytica, has been accused of improperly using information from more than 50 million Facebook accounts. It denies wrongdoing. (Dominic Lipinski/PA via AP)

The chief executive of data mining firm Cambridge Analytica told a reporter posing as a potential client that his company played a big role in getting Donald Trump elected, a British news program revealed Tuesday.

"We did all the research, all the data, all the analytics, all the targeting. We ran all the digital campaign, the television campaign and our data informed all the strategy," Nix said during a secretly recorded meeting with the undercover Channel 4 News reporter.

The broadcaster aired the comments as Cambridge Analytica's board of directors announced Nix's immediate suspension pending an independent investigation.

The board cited recent allegations by a former employee that the firm improperly used information from more than 50 million Facebook accounts to help Trump , as well as unguarded comments Nix made during his meeting with the journalist he thought was a client.

British officials are investigating Cambridge Analytica for its handling of personal data. The [company](#) has denied wrongdoing.

The Channel 4 reporter posed as a wealthy potential client interested in hiring Cambridge Analytica to influence campaigns in Sri Lanka. Nix claimed to have met Trump "many times," but did not provide details.

As part of a sales pitch, Nix said the firm sent emails with a "self-destruct timer" during the Trump campaign to make its role more difficult to trace.



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"So you send them and after they've been read, two hours later, they disappear," the broadcaster recorded him saying. "There's no evidence, there's no paper trail, there's nothing."

He also said U.S. officials would not investigate his foreign clients because "they have no jurisdiction."

In another segment from its undercover investigation broadcast Monday, Channel 4 News showed Nix suggesting the company could tarnish political rivals by offering them large amounts of money or tempting them into compromising sexual situations. He suggested incriminating videos could be posted on the internet.

He responded by saying he was the victim of media harassment and has denied misleading British authorities or inappropriate information.



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Channel 4 also quoted Mark Turnbull, another senior figure at

Cambridge Analytica, as saying the company could create "proxy organizations" to feed negative material about opposition candidates onto the internet and social media.

Turnball said "charities or activist groups" were useful for such a purpose. The unflattering material could be spread through the internet, but without branding or other identifiers that could be traced back Cambridge Analytica.

The company said it has complied with all regulations and is cooperating with British information officials.



The offices of Cambridge Analytica (CA) in central London, after it was announced that Britain's information commissioner Elizabeth Denham is pursuing a warrant to search Cambridge Analytica's computer servers, Tuesday March 20, 2018. Denham said Tuesday that she is using all her legal powers to investigate Facebook and political campaign consultants Cambridge Analytica over the alleged misuse of millions of people's data. Cambridge Analytica said it

is committed to helping the U.K. investigation. (Kirsty O'Connor/PA via AP)

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